

January 28, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC - Tonight, U.S. Rep. Michael Arcuri released the following statement following President Obama's State of the Union Address:

"The President delivered a State of the Union Address that cut to the core of many of the partisan issues that have led to the frustration of the American people and me over the past 6 months. I was glad to see the President take to task the petty, selfish games being played by both the Democrats and Republicans that have caused Congress to lose its way recently. I join the President in his call for a precise focus on the economy and jobs in 2010 and look forward to working with both parties to pass an effective jobs bill in the near future. I was also encouraged to hear the President talk about the need for fiscal responsibility as Congress absolutely needs to tighten its belt financially as the American people have done in order to promote recovery.

President Obama also mentioned high speed rail as an economic engine to drive the economy in the 21st Century and I was pleased that he will be announcing funding for the high speed rail corridor in New York State to take a giant step forward in making high speed rail a reality. There is little doubt that high speed rail will drive up tourism, economic development and job growth in Upstate New York and I will continue to fight for more progress on this front.

I was hoping the President would talk more about cyber-security as the United States has seen China engage in alleged cyber-attacks on Google and I would like to have seen the President call for a tighter crackdown on China and any country that engages in any form of cyber-terrorism with the United States. While expanding the global trading market sounds great for US businesses, I am wary of the President's call to strengthen some of our trading agreements. Our country already operates on a free trade system, but we need to move towards a fair trade system to keep American business here.

Overall, I thought the President laid out what will be an effective road map to help repair the American economy and create the necessary climate in our local communities to create jobs and put people back to work."

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